

philippines was not deemed as important as literature and the arts. At least, the lights and shadows of an abstruse topic should be depicted in broad outlines.

When we think of science in the Philippines, we think of the Bureau of Science. This is a unique institution early organized by the American administration which assembled in one organization activities of a laboratory nature. In the course of time the number of uses to which the bureau was put was greatly expanded. Behind the bureau stood a sympathetic government, and it received federal and private encouragement. The Bureau of Science was, and to a considerable extent still is, a well-rounded scientific institution and may well be considered one of the splendid legacies of the American administration.

When mention is made of the Bureau of Science, there is necessarily brought to mind the name of its founder, Dr. Paul C. Freer. From Freer, the eminent chemist, to Dr. William H. Brown, the eminent botanist, and the last American Director of the Bureau of Science, not a long period of time was spanned, but it was sufficient to permit of noteworthy researches by scientists associated with the bureau. The present Director, Dr. A. S. Arguelles, is a well-trained and scholarly Filipino. His collaborators are practically all young Filipinos.

It needs to be repeated that the implantation of scientific work in the Islands is a comparatively recent development. Just as the Spanish regime was characterized by a crusade for the spread of the Christian faith among the people, so the coming of the American regime gave impetus to the advance

of science along lines adequate to meet modern requirements.

Over thirty years ago life in the tropics was considered

extremely hazardous due to rampant epidemic diseases.

The early American scientists, with unremitting toil and

untold sacrifices, made fundamental investigations which

helped check the heavy tolls of tropical epidemics such as

cholera, smallpox, malaria, and dysentery. These inroads of epidemics